

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 11-14 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nozuyama (USPN 5,862,359; hereafter, Nozuyama). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarity with respect to the features: 1) that the bus connection is controlled in response to the address information, and 2) that a control signal is transmitted to a corresponding one of the control signal lines (which are connected to the respective function blocks) in response to a decoded result of the address information. It should be noted that the claimed bus division control unit performs more than simple control of the bus switches. The claimed bus division control unit transmits the control signal to a corresponding one of the control signal lines, thus controlling a corresponding one of the plurality of function blocks.

It is respectfully submitted that Nozuyama teaches a decoder 4 that is an instruction decoder for decoding instruction signals, and that does not decode address information, as is recited in amended claim 1 of the present invention. In addition, Nozuyama fails to teach supplying a control signal to a corresponding one of the control signal lines (which are connected to the respective function blocks) in response to a decoded result of the address information, as is recited in amended claim 1 of the present invention.

NEW CLAIMS:

A. New claim 11 recites that the features of the present invention include a semiconductor device comprising: a plurality of function blocks; a plurality of data buses, each

connected to one of the plurality of function blocks; a plurality of control signal lines, each connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of function blocks; an address/data bus having a main control signal line; a bus control unit connected to the address/data bus; and a bus division control unit arranged to couple the address/data bus to the plurality of data buses, decode address information received from the bus control unit via the address/data bus, and transmit a control signal from the main control signal line via one of the plurality of control signal lines to control the corresponding one of the plurality of function blocks.

Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that this new claim distinguishes over the prior art.

B. New claim 12 recites that the features of the present invention include a system for routing a control signal, comprising:

- a bus control unit supplying an address signal indicating one of plural control signal lines;
- a decoder connected to the bus control unit and decoding the address signal; and
- a control signal connection circuit connecting the control signal to the one of the control signal lines responsive to the decoding.

Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that this new claim distinguishes over the prior art.

C. New claim 13 recites that the features of the present invention include a method of routing a control signal, comprising: supplying an address signal indicating one of plural control signal lines; decoding the address signal; and connecting the control signal to the one of the control signal lines responsive to the decoding.

Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that this new claim distinguishes over the prior art.

D. New claim 14 recites that the features of the present invention include a system for routing a control signal, comprising: a bus control unit supplying an address signal indicating one of plural control signal lines; and a bus division control unit having a decoder connected to the bus control unit and decoding the address signal, and having a control signal connection circuit connecting the control signal to the one of the control signal lines responsive to the decoding.

Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that this new claim distinguishes over the prior art.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further

outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: Darleen J. Stockley
Darleen J. Stockley
Registration No. 34,257

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501